



60143P1

AGERATUM PLANT NAMED 'AGETIS'

Latin name of the genus and species of the plant claimed

Ageratum houstonianum

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Variety denomination

'AGETIS'

Background of the new plant

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The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of Ageratum, botanically known as *Ageratum houstonianum*. The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the cross of 'Q343-2' and 'S570-2'. 'Q343-2' is a purple flowering Ageratum having a compact habit. 'Q343-2' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms.

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'S570-2' is a blue and white flowering Ageratum having an upright habit. 'S570-2' is a selection from the variety 'Southern Cross'.

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Neither 'Q343-2' or 'S570-2' has been patented. As a result of this cross the present cultivar was created in 1997 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands, in Gilroy, USA, in Angers, France and in Sarrians, France over a three-year period. The distinctive characteristics of this new Ageratum are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction. It takes 9 to 11 weeks to produce a finished plant, depending on the temperature.

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This new Ageratum plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the US, only in zones 9 and 10 is it a perennial plant.

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Description of the drawing

This new Ageratum plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

Description of the new cultivar

10 The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new Ageratum. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 20 weeks old plants, blossomed under natural light and artificial light in a greenhouse. Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light. Color references are primarily 15 to the RHS Color Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society of London.

Table 1

Differences between the new variety 'Agetis', its parents and a similar cultivar

Character	'Agetis'	'Q343-2'	'S570-2'	'R116'
Flower color	Violet	Purple	Blue and white	Violet
Size of capitulum	16-21 mm	6-9 mm	16-21 mm	7-9 mm
Plant height	30-40 cm	20-25 cm	25-35 cm	20-25 cm
Branching	At every internode	At every internode	Not at every internode	At every internode

The Plant

Classification	- Botanical	:	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>
Parentage	- Female parent	:	A seedling named 'Q343-2' is one of our seedlings from our Q-generation of plants bred in 1987
5	- Pollen parent	:	A seedling named 'S570-2' is one of our seedlings from our S-generation of plants bred in 1997
Growth habit		:	Erect, well branched
Plant height		:	30-40 cm
Spreading area of plant		:	30-40 cm
10	Growth rate	:	Vigorous
Strength		:	Very good
Branching character		:	Freely branching and lateral branching at every node
Blooming period		:	Year round

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The stem

Diameter	:	2-2.5 mm	
Shape	:	Round	
Color	:	145 B	
20	Anthocyan pigmentation	:	Absent
Length of the stem	:	5-15 cm	
Pubescence	:	Slightly pubescent	

The Foliage

25	Phyllotaxis	:	Opposite, decussate
	Shape of blade:	:	Ovate
	Texture - Upper side	:	Slightly pubescent

	- Lower side	:	Slightly pubescent
	Venation	:	Reticulate
	Leaf margin	:	Crenate
	Leaf base	:	Cordate
5	Leaf apex	:	Rounded
	Length	:	27-63 mm
	Width	:	30-68 mm
	Color	- Upper side	Dark green 137A
		- Lower side	Medium green 143A
10	Pubescence	:	Some pubescence is present
	Length of petiole	:	11-15 mm
	Color of petiole	:	Light green 145C
	Petiole surface texture	:	Slightly pubescent
15	<u>Inflorescence</u>		
	Inflorescence	:	Compound umbel of capitula
	Length of peduncle	:	18-35 mm
	Diameter of peduncle	:	2 - 3 mm
	Color of peduncle exposed to light	:	RHS 152B
20	Color of peduncle not exposed to light	:	RHS 145A
	Length of pedicel	:	4-11 mm
	Diameter of pedicel	:	1 - 2 mm
	Color of pedicel	:	RHS 145A
	Number of inflorescence per plant	:	5 - 9 when ready for sale
25	Diameter of umbel	:	4 - 6 cm
	Depth of umbel	:	2 - 5 cm
	Number of capitula per inflorescence	:	10-19

	Number of corolla per capitulum	:	80-120
	Shape of corolla	:	actinomorph
	Number of lobes	:	5
	Length of corolla	:	4 – 5 mm
5	Diameter of corolla	:	1 – 2 mm
	Color of corolla upper side	:	RHS 083D
	Color of corolla lower side	:	RHS 157D
	Number of phyllaries per capitulum	:	23-25
	Length of phyllary	:	4-5 mm
10	Diameter of phyllary	:	1-2 mm
	Color of upper side of phyllary	:	RHS 143A
	Color of lower side of phyllary	:	RHS 143B
	Diameter of capitulum at beginning of flowering	:	7-8 mm
15	Depth of capitulum	:	6-8 mm
	Color of capitulum at beginning of flowering	:	RHS 083D
	Diameter of capitulum at full flowering	:	16-21 mm
20	Color of capitulum at full flowering	:	RHS 086D
	Reproductive organs		
	Pollen	:	no pollen is produced
	Length of stigma and syle	:	8-9 mm
	Color of stigma	:	RHS 091A
25	Fragrance	:	No fragrance
	Lastingness of the bloom	:	The capitula of one umbel open over a period of 5 to 6 weeks

Seeds

Seedset : No seedset has been observed

Roots

5 Type of roots : Fibrous. Roots start to grow on every part of the stem that contacts the soil, so not only at the nodes.

Physiological and ecological characteristics:

10 Good tolerance to heat and cold, but no frost tolerance. Strong resistance to pests and diseases.